

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 78 JOBS FOR JOHNSTON COUNTY ***One North Carolina Fund Grant Helps Environ-OPW Expand in Smithfield***

RALEIGH - Gov. Mike Easley today announced that Environ-OPW will expand its Smithfield facility, creating 78 jobs and investing \$3.6 million during the next three years. The announcement was made possible in part by a \$37,000 One North Carolina Fund grant.

"Environ-OPW's decision to expand the facility in Smithfield is excellent news for Johnston County," Easley said. "Our commitment to invest in education and worker training means companies know they will find workers with the knowledge, talent and skill they need to be successful."

OPW, headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, is a leading designer and manufacturer of underground hydrocarbon containment systems, as well as gas station and fueling station nozzles, piping, fittings and equipment. It recently purchased Environ Holdings in Smithfield and plans to expand that plant by relocating one of its facilities from California to Johnston County.

The newly acquired Environ Holdings is incorporated under the name of Environ-OPW. While wages will vary by job function, the average weekly wage of the new jobs will be \$616 plus benefits, which is higher than the Johnston County average weekly wage of \$560 not including benefits.

"We are pleased that the State of North Carolina and Johnston County have concurrently worked to provide Environ-OPW grants to support our planned expansion," said Environ-OPW President Patrick Schultz. "Being a global supplier to companies such as Exxon-Mobil and British Petroleum, we are constantly challenged to acquire skilled and exceptional employees. Having access to the vast pool of experienced and educated workers in Johnston County, we believe this is the best possible location for Environ-OPW to achieve its planned growth."

The One North Carolina Fund assists the state in industry recruitment and expansion by providing financial assistance through local governments to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity and create new jobs. One North Carolina Fund grants require and are contingent upon a local match. Through the use of this Fund, more than 20,000 jobs and \$3 billion in investment have been created since 2001.

Other partners who helped make this announcement possible include the N.C. Department of Commerce, Johnston County, Johnston County Community College and Progress Energy.

For more information about the company and employment opportunities, visit www.envproduct.com or contact Environ-OPW Vice President of Human Resources and Planning, Ms. Lori Combs at 3250 US Highway 70 Business West, Smithfield NC 27577.

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